

City Council Meeting
April 3, 2023

The Fergus Falls City Council held a regular meeting at 5:30 pm on April 3, 2023 in the City Council Chambers. Pastor Rich Iverson of Bethel Church gave the invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Schierer called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm and the following council members were in attendance: Kvamme, Rufer, Kremeier, Thompson, Rachels, Hicks, Fish and Job.

Approval of Agenda

A motion and second were made by Fish and Rufer to approve tonight's agenda as presented and the motion carried.

Public Hearing Vacation of Drainage & Utility Easements

Vector Windows requested an easement vacation via petition for a drainage and utility easement. To vacate an easement, a public hearing must be held. The hearing was opened at 5:35 pm and closed when no one appeared. Hicks offered **Resolution #58-2023** accepting the petition of a vacation by easement from Vector Windows, which was seconded by Kvamme and was adopted.

Ordinance 36, Eighth Series

Fish introduced Ordinance 36, Eighth Series, Ordering a vacation of a drainage and utility easement to Lots 4 and 5, Block 2, Northwest Industrial Park Addition and it was declared to have its first reading.

Public Hearing IRP Loan for I94 Properties

Business Development for Fergus Falls has reviewed and recommended the request for a \$250,000 Intermediate Relending Program (IRP) loan for I94 Properties LLC. I-94 Properties is remodeling and adding businesses at the strip mall located at 3302 State Hwy 210 E. The city would be in the second position behind bank financing. A public hearing is required when a business subsidy exceeds \$75,000. The public hearing was opened at 5:38 pm and closed when no one appeared. Job offered **Resolution #59-2023** approving an Intermediary Relending Program loan in the amount of \$250,000 to I94 Properties LLC, which was seconded by Hicks and was adopted.

Consent Agenda

The following items were approved under **Resolution #60-2023** by Rufer: Motion approving the minutes from the March 20, 2023, City Council meeting and the March 28, 2023, Committee of the Whole meeting. Motion approving the following licenses: Mechanical Mission Mechanical; Excavator Paul Haarstad Excavating; Food Truck Permit Peney Cakes, Big J's Smokehouse LLC; Tobacco License Fergus Falls Municipal Liquor Store #2, Smoke N Vape; THC License Smoke N Vape. **Resolution #61-2023** authorizing the hiring of up to four part-time/temporary Community Service Officers. **Resolution #62-2023** supporting the Pathways to Policing and amending the city's tuition reimbursement policy. **Resolution #63-2023** adopting a resolution of support for the Public Safety Officer Wellness Plan and Policy. **Resolution #64-2023** declaring items as surplus and authorizing their trade-in or disposal. **Resolution #65-2023** accepting the surface water assessment plan. The resolution was seconded by Thompson and was adopted.

City Project 5960

City Project 5960 is the 2023 Street and Utility Improvement Project No. 1 that will address the reconstruction of sanitary sewer, water main, storm sewer, sewer and water services, and bituminous street for Summit Avenue: Broadway to Oak Street, Linden Street: Broadway to Oak Street, and Laurel Street: First Avenue to Broadway. The preliminary project hearing was held on March 6 and tonight the council is being asked to order the plans and specifications. The project is proposed to start this year and staff will soon be coming before the council seeking authorization to advertise for bids. Thompson offered **Resolution #66-2023** ordering the plans and specifications for CP 5960, which was seconded by Fish and was adopted.

Oak Grove Cemetery

At last week's Committee of the Whole meeting staff presented a proposal to gift five acres of city owned land to the Oak Grove Cemetery board for future expansion. Since that time the water plant staff have requested the city hold off on the gift of land until they can determine future additional wells and draw down areas surrounding each well to ensure a safe distance from grave sites. Staff met with the Oak Grove Cemetery officials last week and they understood the need to wait for the city to conduct their due diligence. Their trustees asked the city to help them clean up platting and title issues on the property that can be accomplished by a quit claim deed. Fish offered **Resolution #67-2023** directing staff to execute a quit claim deed with the Oak Grove Cemetery to clean up title and platting issues, which was seconded by Kvamme and was adopted.

Resolution of Accounts

Fish offered a resolution authorizing the payments and claims in the amount of \$726,890.15, which was seconded by Rufer and was adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 pm

Lynne Olson